REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, all of the original 34 claims have been cancelled and condensed into 11 new claims presented herein.

In this regard, Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 on the grounds that it should have referred to a computer-readable medium or memory. New Claim 45 is similar to cancelled Claim 34, and Claim 45 requires "A computer readable medium storing a computer-executable program for implementing a method according to one of Claims 40-44". Accordingly, it is believed that the objection based on 35 U.S.C. § 101 has been obviated by this response.

With respect to new Claims 35-44, Applicants point out that new Claims 35-37 are based on original Claims 1, 3, 4, and 5, and such new claims are supported by Figs. 1 to 3 and accompanying description thereof (i.e., the first embodiment). Independent Claim 38 is based on original Claims 1 and 11, and is supported by Fig. 4 and its accompanying description. New Claim 39 is based on original Claims 1 and 10 and is supported by Fig. 5 and its accompanying description (i.e., the second embodiment). Finally, new Claims 40-44 are method claims corresponding to apparatus Claims 35-39, respectively, and Claim 45 is for a computer-readable medium and depends from Claims 40-44.

Referring now to the invention as presented in new Claims 35-45, Applicants point out that such claims relate to managing separately an internal user profile and an external user profile, thereby attaining more satisfactory program searching. In order to achieve this objective of the present invention, a receiving apparatus, which receives television broadcasting signals, is configured as recited in the new claims. Specifically, as recited in each of the new independent Claims 35 and 39, a receiving apparatus of the present invention is arranged to store

the internal and external user profiles in a storing unit. One of the stored internal and external user profiles is selected and a program is searched corresponding to the selected user profile among a plurality of programs which are multiplexed in the television broadcasting signals and transmitted for subsequent deletion at an optional timing. The external user profile of the internal and external user profiles stored in the storing unit. In addition, as recited in the new independent Claim 38, a receiving apparatus of the present invention is arranged to be capable of updating the contents of the external user profile stored in the storing unit, on the basis of an operation history of an operation unit for instructing an operation of the receiving apparatus, when the external user profile is selected.

In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-described features of the present invention are disclosed by any of the cited references to Lawler, Bedard, Perkins, Ellis and Belmont. Particularly, the cited Lawler reference describes, in column 9 lines 19-23, that "the viewer preference correlations would be determined periodically by central control node 12. For example, central control node 12 could perform all such determination in a batch format daily or weekly at a relatively low-use time", and also describes in column 7 lines 44-47 that "station controller 20 transmits to central control node 12 a viewer identifier corresponding to the viewer or viewers watching the programming". In addition, this reference describes, in column 9 lines 36-49, that "central control node 12 identifies preferred programming according to an individual viewer's viewing history...." FIG. 3B shows selective programming guide 80 with criteria panel 82 listing four separate preference criteria reflecting individual viewing history, household viewing history, aggregate (national) viewing history, and aggregate critical reviews". That is, the Lawler reference discloses that the central control node 12 obtains external user profiles from a plurality of station controllers 20 to identify a preferred programming according

to an individual viewer's viewing history, preferred programming according to household viewing history, preferred programming according to aggregate (national) viewing history, and preferred programming according to aggregate critical reviews. However, Lawler fails to disclose separately managing an internal user profile and an external user profile and automatically deleting the external user profile while not automatically deleting the internal user profile, as recited in each of new Claims 35 and 39.

The Bedard reference describes, in column 6 lines 6-8, that "the viewer profile must continue to search for an entry 202 that is old enough to be removed from viewer profile array 200". That is, Bedard discloses deleting the viewer profile automatically. However, as in the case of the Lawler patent, Bedard also fails to disclose the separate management of an internal user profile and an external user profile and automatically deleting the external user profile while not automatically deleting the internal user profile, as recited in each of the amended independent Claims 35 and 39.

As for the Perkins reference, it describes, in column 13 lines 29-31, that "user profile are deleted as part of search engine cleanup process", and also describes in column 8 lines 57-60 that "The search engine periodically performs cleanup tasks, using server-side scripts to remove information from the Table of User Profiles that is no longer needed or has not been used in a specified amount of time". That is, Perkins discloses periodically deleting the user profile. However, Perkins fails to disclose separately managing an internal user profile and an external user profile and automatically deleting the external user profile while not automatically deleting the internal user profile, as recited in each of the amended independent Claims 35 and 39.

The Ellis reference discloses to "search programs among the data stored in storage means" (paragraph [0145] lines 8-12). That is, this reference discloses to search a program

corresponding to a selected user profile among a plurality of programs stored in a storage unit. However, again, there is no disclosure in Ellis of managing separately an internal user profile and an external user profile and automatically deleting the external user profile while not automatically deleting the internal user profile. In the cited Belmont reference it is disclosed, in column 3 lines 56-60, that "For TV Application 22, tracking/reporting device 18 can also track the hour-by-hour usage of what channels are watched" and "Tracking/reporting device 18 can also track which channels or programs were tuned by the user using an Electronic Program Guide", and also, in column 4 lines 44-53, that "Data collection agent 30 provides an interface to a remote data collection service which retrieves the stored usage data in metered usage data storage 32". However, the cited Belmont reference fails to disclose that when the external user profile is selected, the contents of the external user profile stored in the storing unit can be updated on the basis of an operation history of an operation unit for instructing an operation of a receiving apparatus, as recited in the new independent Claim 38.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, when each taken alone or in combination, do not disclose the present invention in each of the new independent Claims 35, 38 and 39.

Similarly, new independent Claims 40, 43 and 44 are method claims corresponding to the above-characterized apparatus claims, and they are patentable for the same reasons.

For these various reasons it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims as now presented are allowable, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

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